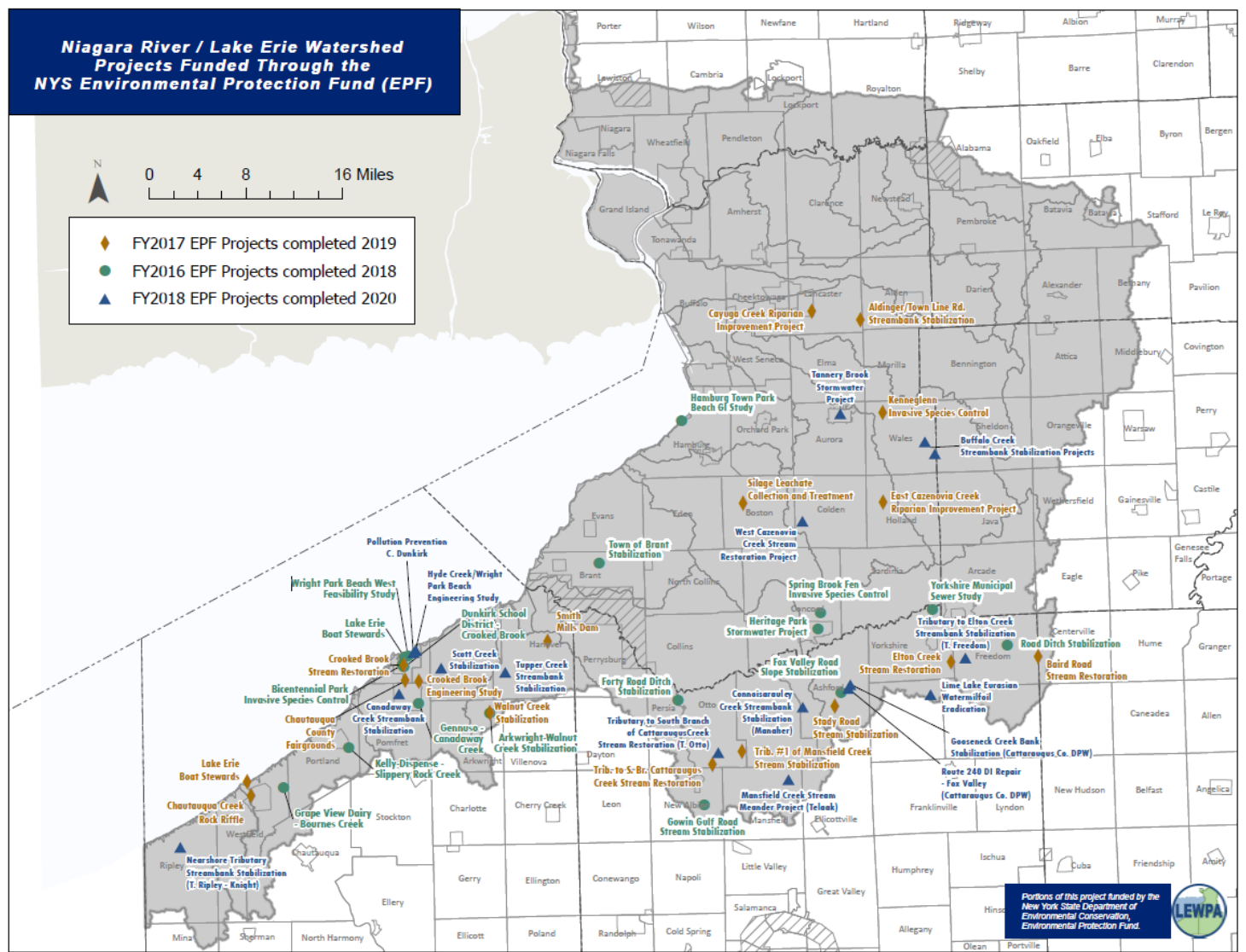


# Annual Report of the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance—2021



The Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) formed in 2012 as an alliance of municipal officials and concerned stakeholders working together within the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed including Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties. The mission of LEWPA is to foster collaboration and partnerships within the watershed to address regional water quality and quantity concerns, and in doing so, protect and enhance our Lake Erie resource. [Tinyurl.com/LEWPANY](http://Tinyurl.com/LEWPANY)

**Over three years of funding, LEWPA has partnered on over \$2.5 million in environmental projects to protect and enhance water quality in the region!**



**Portions of these projects were funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)**

# NYS EPF Project Highlights

Connoisarauley Creek  
stream bank stabilization



Dunkirk stormwater drain  
marking



Buffalo Creek riparian  
buffer planting



## First Three Years of EPF Project Results



### Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance Environmental Protection Fund Results

**54,527** lbs of nutrients      **18,209** tons of sediment

~~~~~ prevented from entering waterways ~~~~~

**8,666 ft** stream and road  
bank stabilized

**74** acres  
hydroseeded

**\$685,850** investment leveraged **\$1,435,868** additional funds

stormwater  
treated on **240** acres



**10** feasibility studies preparing  
for larger projects



**3,900 ft** streamside buffers  
planted

**54 acres** invasive  
species management



**1,227** boats inspected for aquatic invasive species



**20,000** people educated

Fiscal Years 2016, 2017, and 2018 funding through NYS Environmental Protection Fund

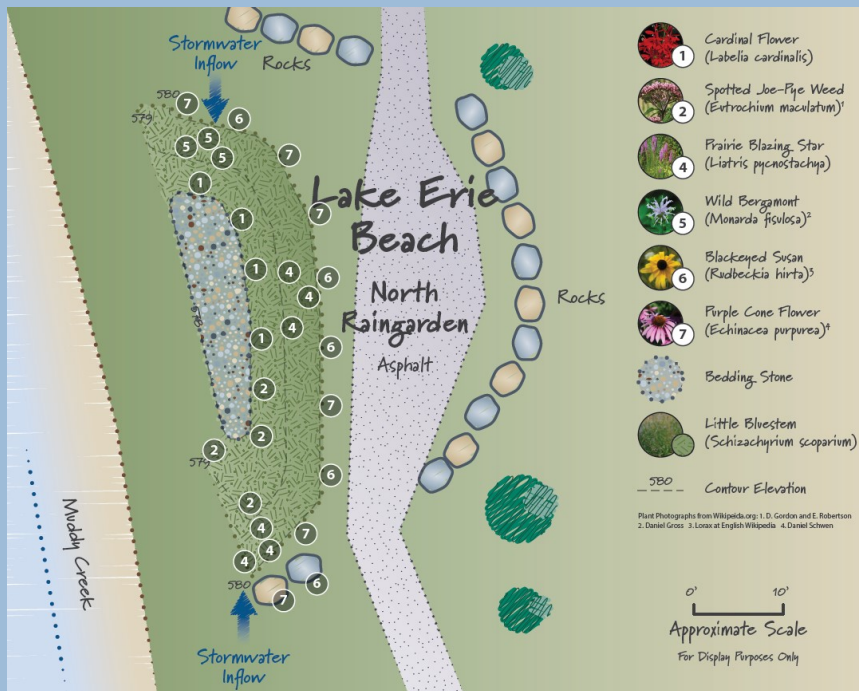


## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Funded Beach Green Infrastructure Projects

## Lake Erie Beach in Evans, NY

**LEWPA was awarded funding from USEPA to manage the construction of previously designed rain gardens at Lake Erie Beach. These collect and treat stormwater runoff from nearby paths and parking lots before it reaches Muddy Creek and the beach.**

Seiches over the past three autumn seasons have deposited debris on the rain gardens indicating the need to consider lake levels when designing waterfront projects.



## Point Gratiot Park in Dunkirk, NY

**LEWPA also managed the construction of rain gardens and bioswales at Point Gratiot Park. These practices will manage stormwater runoff from parking areas, pathways, and roadways. They collect stormwater and allow for evapotranspiration or infiltration into the ground. Plantings also uptake nutrients and other pollutants in the water.**

Green, rather than grey, infrastructure can improve water quality and look great! It also provides habitat for wildlife, providing many ecosystem benefits. LEWPA continues to encourage projects like these and can fund feasibility studies or initial designs if other municipalities are interested. Contact [Joanna.Panasiewicz@erie.gov](mailto:Joanna.Panasiewicz@erie.gov) for more information.



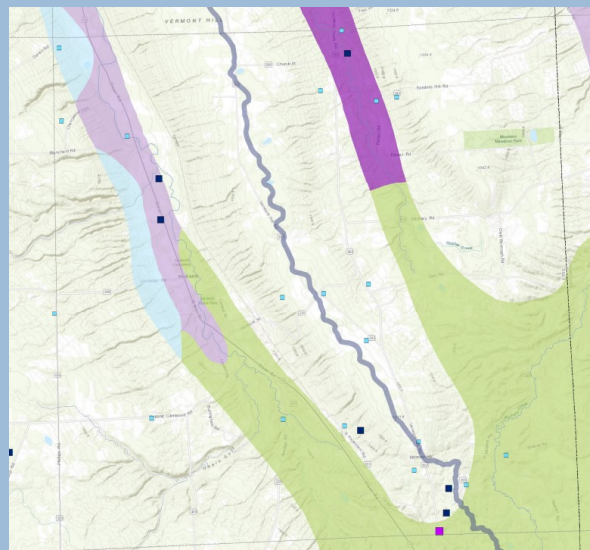


# Upstream Heroes!

In each newsletter, LEWPA will recognize a municipality that is working to protect or restore our water resources. We are all upstream of someone and we all need to do our part to manage our ecosystem resources wisely.

## Holland, NY

The Town of Holland participated in a Headwaters workshop in 2019, put on by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, LEWPA, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Great Lakes Program, and WNY Land Conservancy. Officials learned about the importance of watershed planning including flood resiliency, source water protection, re-envisioning waterfront areas, and sustainable land uses. Holland is currently participating in the NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program to ensure their aquifers are protected for years to come.



Aquifer Map

## LEWPA Announces Municipal Training website!

LEWPA has developed a municipal training website and encourages all elected officials to start with the “Watershed 101 Overview” video to learn how everything is interconnected.

[Tinyurl.com/municipaltraining](https://tinyurl.com/municipaltraining)

## Septic Smart for Lake Erie

The NYS Pollution Prevention Institute has awarded LEWPA a grant to provide septic system workshops in all three counties. To help people avoid expensive repairs and to help protect water quality, especially after many people have been home more during the pandemic, LEWPA will develop an outreach and education campaign around keeping septic systems in good working order.

## LEWPA Conducting Stream Assessments

As part of the Regional Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed Management Plan Phase 3 project, LEWPA has seasonal interns assessing streams in the watershed. Results will determine where to prioritize water quality improvement and protection projects.

[Tinyurl.com/9EWatershedPlan](https://tinyurl.com/9EWatershedPlan)

